

CPT 4

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Post Office Box 1

Kyrenia, Cyprus

16 June 1959

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[Redacted]
Chief, FBIS
2430 E Street N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Roger:

Subject: Coverage Coordination Meeting

The 13th semi-annual coverage coordination meeting was held at the Station on Thursday, 11 June 1959. Mr. Addington, the BBC representative, arrived 8 June, discussed problems with us before the meeting, and departed 13 June. As usual the atmosphere was cordial. Most problems were discussed quite frankly although I found BBC less willing to compromise than before.

Attached are minutes of the meeting. It will be noted that the only concession that could be gained in Arabic coverage was that BBC hopes to be able to assume coverage of Tunis evening programs in approximately two months. Although he said that BBC needed Peking in Arabic badly, Mr. Addington could only make suggestions for trimming the Bureau schedule; BBC itself could not cover Peking. The increase in processing from Moscow and other commitments made this impossible.

There has been no change in plans for expansion, he said, but BBC has been having great difficulty in finding suitable recruits in the United Kingdom. He had no information as to when the East African station would be in operation. He indicated that when the entire staff is fully trained, it will be prepared to monitor some Swahili and Somali and perhaps some Middle East broadcasts. We thought he was purposely evasive about the latter. It is certain that BBC intends to give no assistance in the monitoring of Arabic casts from Satellite countries.

If circumstances place additional urgent commitments on the Bureau, I suggest that the Peking program be dropped, not only because it is of lower priority as far as FBIS is concerned but also because the move may force BBC into re-examining its Arabic capabilities. Without some such lever Arabic coverage will have to be negotiated at a higher level where other languages can also be used to exert pressure.

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Coordination of coverage of Soviet Regional Coverage has caused the Bureau more trouble than it should. Part of this is caused by BBC's inability to communicate rapidly with Teheran. It is hoped that a mutually agreeable system can be worked out during the summer months before autumn reception begins to improve.

Sincerely,



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Mediterranean Bureau

cc: Chief, London Bureau